

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

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PASS TREASURY FOR ASST. SECY. BRILL AND DAS JUNZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: INTERFUTURES STEERING COMMITTEE - MAY 25-26

1. SUMMARY: CONSENSUS OF MAY 25-26 INTERFUTURES
STEERING COMMITTEE WAS THAT WORK PRODUCED SINCE LAST
MEETING REPRESENTED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. HOWEVER,
MOST DELS EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN OVER TEAM'S ABILITY
TO PRODUCE COMPREHENSIVE FINAL REPORT AND PREPARE
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING BEFORE END OF YEAR UNLESS
PACE OF WORK IS GREATLY STEPPED UP. IN ORDER TO
FACILITATE FOCUS ON FINAL REPORT, IT WAS AGREED THAT
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL
LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER WHEN PRELIMINARY
VERSION OF FINAL REPORT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BACK
UP A SHORT MAIN ISSUES PAPER. QUESTION OF EXTENSION
OF INTERFUTURES BEYOND DEC. 31 EXPIRATION DATE WAS
RAISED BUT NOT RESOLVED. US, SUPPORTED BY GERMANY
AND SWITZERLAND, ARGUED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FOLLOW-
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UP TO INTERFUTURES WORK BUT THAT THIS SHOULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH NORMAL OECD MACHINERY WITHOUT
EXTENSION OF PROJECT ITSELF. MOST OTHER DELS
VOICED WILLINGNESS TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION
TO WRITTEN PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION. SECRETARIAT
AGREED TO CIRCULATE WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS SPECIFIC
PROPOSAL INCLUDING BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS FOR WRITTEN

COMMENT BY STEERING COMMITTEE REPS. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE WAS SET FOR OCTOBER 3-4. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBSTANCE. STEERING COMMITTEE HEARD LENGTHY PRESENTATIONS OF FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED JUST PRIOR TO OR DURING MEETING AS MAIN OUTPUT OF PHASE C:

- A) PRESENTATIONS OF SCENARIOS (FUT(78)C.2)
- B) ANALYSIS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE (FUT(78)C.3)
- C) NEW DEMANDS (FUT(78)6)
- D) PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (FUT(78)C.4)

RESPONSE TO ALL BUT VIRTUALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE "NEW DEMANDS PAPER WAS POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH LATE ARRIVAL OF LENGTHY PAPERS PRECLUDED DETAILED DISCUSSION. REQUESTING FURTHER STEERING COMMITTEE COMMENTS IN WRITING, LESOURNE INDICATED THAT THESE PAPERS PLUS SECTORAL PAPERS TO BE PRODUCED BY MICHALSKI AND ELABORATION OF FURTHER SCENARIOS WOULD BE MAIN BASIS FOR FINAL REPORT AND ISSUES PAPER FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING. MOST DELS URGED LESOURNE TO FOCUS EFFORT HENCEFORTH ON MOLDING MATERIAL ALREADY DEVELOPED INTO FINAL REPORT AND TO AVOID INITIATING NEW WORK. IN THIS CONTEXT, USREP (ASST. SECRETARY BRILL OF TREASURY) SUGGESTED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TEAM ABANDON ELABORATION OF SCENARIOS OTHER THAN THOSE DEVELOPED IN FUT(78)C.2, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE OTHERS CONTEMPLATED BY LESOURNE SEEMED LESS APPROPRIATE TO INTERFUTURES WORK DUE TO THEIR HIGHLY "GEOPOLITICAL" CHARACTER.

3. STEERING COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED DRAFT WRITTEN REPORT FOR OECD MINISTERIAL (FUT(78)2), SEVERAL DELEGATIONS URGING THAT IT BE MADE MORE CONCISE AND THAT IT OUTLINE MORE CLEARLY POLICY RELATED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT. LESOURNE INDICATED THAT REPORT WOULD BE ISSUED ON RESPONSIBILITY OF SEC GEN (NOT STEERING COMMITTEE OR INTERFUTURES TEAM ITSELF) AND THAT IT WAS INTENDED SIMPLY AS BACKGROUND

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DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE NOTED ON MINISTERIAL
AGENDA. HE INDICATED REPORT WOULD BE REDRAFTED IN
LINE WITH STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE
SUBMISSION TO SECGEN.

4. THERE WERE FEW SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS ON DRAFT
TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR FINAL REPORT (FUT(78)9),
ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS URGED THAT IT BE MORE
TIGHTLY INTEGRATED. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO DISCUSSION
OF MAIN ISSUES PAPER (FUT(78)7) FOLLOWING PRO-
CEDURAL DECISION (SEE BELOW) TO POSTPONE SENIOR
OFFICIALS' MEETING. LAST REMAINING PHASE B
DOCUMENT ON TRADE WAS FINALLY DISTRIBUTED DURING
MEETING BUT NOT DISCUSSED.

5. PROCEDURE. LARGE NUMBER OF DELS VOICED STRONG
CONCERN OVER TEAM'S ABILITY TO PREPARE SENIOR
OFFICIALS MEETING IN EARLY FALL AND AT THE SAME TIME
TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE FINAL REPORT BY THE END
OF THE YEAR. SEVERAL STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FINAL
REPORT AND URGED THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING
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BE DROPPED ALTOGETHER, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT COULD
NO LONGER USEFULLY PROVIDE INPUT AND GUIDANCE TO
TEAM'S WORK. JAPANESE DEL MAINTAINED STRONGLY THAT
JAPAN'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE IN PROPOSING INTERFUTURES
WOULD NOT BE FULFILLED IF SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE NOT

ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS. HE ARGUED THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING COULD STILL SERVE TO ATTRACT ATTENTION OF POLICY MAKERS TO IMPLICATIONS OF LONG-TERM ISSUES FOR THEIR DECISIONS AND THAT DISCUSSIONS COULD BE QUITE USEFUL WHOLLY APART FROM ITS INFLUENCE ON INTERFUTURES. UPSHOT WAS AGREEMENT TO POSTPONE SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING UNTIL AFTER FIRST DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT IS COMPLETED. THIS WOULD ELIMINATE NEED FOR SEPARATE BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN A MAIN ISSUES PAPER AND PERMIT SENIOR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS FINAL RESULTS OF PROJECT. (IT WOULD BE CLEARLY STIPULATED THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE ASKED TO APPROVE OR ENDORSE INTERFUTURES CONCLUSIONS.) CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED NOV. 31-DEC. 1 AS TENTATIVE DATES FOR THE MEETING. QUESTION OF STRUCTURE AND NATURE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING WAS LEFT FOR NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SET FOR OCT. 3-4.

6. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF INTERFUTURES BEYOND ITS THREE YEARS MANDATE WAS RAISED BY LESOURNE BOTH AT BUREAU DINNER AND AT STEERING COMMITTEE. LESOURNE ARGUED THAT WHILE TEAM WOULD PRODUCE FINAL REPORT BY END OF THE YEAR IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO REVISE OTHER PAPERS AND POLISH THEM FOR DISSEMINATION BEYOND GOVERNMENTS. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO MAINTAIN TEAM ON REDUCED BASIS FOR ANOTHER YEAR IN ORDER TO FURTHER ELABORATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK ALREADY BEGUN, E.G., BY EXPLORING FURTHER SCENARIOS. LESOURNE ASSERTED THAT WORK HE HAD IN MIND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "FOLLOW-UP" RATHER THAN "EXTENSION" OF INTERFUTURES; PROJECT'S ORIGINAL MANDATE WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED THIS YEAR WITH ISSUANCE OF FINAL REPORT AND HOLDING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING. HE FELT FOLLOW-UP WOULD CONTINUE TO REQUIRE DISTINCT INTERFUTURES TEAM. LESOURNE MADE CLEAR THAT DECISION FOR EXTENSION WOULD BE UP TO OECD COUNCIL, BUT URGED THAT STEERING COMMITTEE MAKE POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION. HE INSISTED THAT DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY END OF JULY IF ANY OF PRESENT STAFF MEMBERS WERE TO BE RETAINED.

7.. IN PLENARY SESSION (AND IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH DEPUTY SEC GEN ELDIN), USREP AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FOLLOW-UP TO PROJECT BUT ARGUED THAT THIS COULD MORE USEFULLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH INTEGRATION OF VALID ELEMENTS OF INTERFUTURES

APPROACH INTO ONGOING WORK OF OECD THAN THROUGH
MAINTENANCE OF DISTINCT TEAM. SWISS AND GERMAN
DELS ALSO VOICED THIS VIEW. HOWEVER, JAPANESE,

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ITALIAN, UK AND MOST OTHER DELS INDICATED A WILLING-
NESS TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO A PRECISELY
FORMULATED PROPOSAL FOR EXTENDING A REDUCED INTER-
FUTURES TEAM THROUGH 1979. UPSHOT WAS THAT LESOURNE
WILL CIRCULATE TO STEERING COMMITTEE REPS A PRO-
POSAL FOR EXTENSION INCLUDING SUGGESTED WORK PLAN,
BUDGET, AND RESOURCE LEVELS. STEERING COMMITTEE
REPS WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS TO
CHAIRMAN MIYAZAKI WHO WILL FORWARD THEM TO SECGEN
VANLENNEP FOR HIS USE IN DECIDING WHETHER TO
PROPOSE EXTENSION TO OECD COUNCIL.

8. MISSION COMMENT. IN PRIVATE MEETINGS, DEPUTY
SECGEN ELDIN INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH US APPROACH,
BUT ARGUED THAT TO ENSURE THAT INTERFUTURES
WORK WAS FOLLOWED UP BY OECD AS A WHOLE WOULD REQUIRE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A COORDINATING MECHANISM ON THE
SECGEN'S STAFF. HE FELT THAT THIS WOULD NECESSITATE
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN PART I OF OECD
BUDGET. CHAIRMAN MIYAZAKI ALSO PRIVATELY INDICATED
GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT INTERFUTURES SHOULD BE

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INTEGRATED INTO OVERALL OECD WORK RATHER THAN CONTINUE
AS A SEPARATE EXERCISE. THIS WAS NOT, HOWEVER,
REFLECTED IN PLENARY STATEMENT BY JAPANESE DEL.

9. FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF STEERING COMMITTEE, ELDIN
INDICATED THAT LESOURNE'S PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION WILL BE
GONE OVER CAREFULLY BY SECGEN BEFORE CIRCULATION TO
STEERING COMMITTEE. JUDGING FROM STEERING
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, WE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO
CONSULT CLOSELY BILATERALLY BOTH WITH SECRETARIAT AND
WITH OTHER KEY DELS (PARTICULARLY JAPANESE) IF WE WISH
TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH US STANDS ESSENTIALLY
ALONE IN OPPOSING EXTENSION OF INTERFUTURES ITSELF.
MISSION WILL FOLLOW UP WITH LESOURNE, ELDIN AND
PERMANENT DELEGATIONS.
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